

Simmons, Ellen

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To: Craig Quigley
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | OCTOBER 12, 2018

Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | OCTOBER 12, 2018

TOP STORIES

Hindsight is 2024

Nikki Haley, the American ambassador to the United Nations, stepped down from her position Tuesday. Her resignation seems to have caught senior White House staff by surprise. Despite a recent report raising questions about her use

of private jets, Ms. Haley faced no pressure to resign. She managed an unusual balancing act during her nearly two years in office: remaining in the good graces of both Mr. Trump and his Republican-establishment opponents.

[Read more.](#)

It's widely assumed in Washington that Haley has a [presidential run](#) in her future—indeed, she felt it necessary to inform Trump in front of the White House press corps that she wasn't gunning for him in 2020.

Often, her work as ambassador happened to boost credentials that would be useful for a potential presidential candidate—for example, in her staunch support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government, which will win approval among evangelical voters.

Michael's Wrath

Michael, a Category 4 hurricane, smashed into the Florida Panhandle on Wednesday. The supercharged storm had maximum sustained winds of 155 mph at landfall—just two miles shy of a Category 5, the fiercest on the scale. An hour after landfall, the storm's winds had weakened slightly but were still vicious at 150 mph. Hurricanes generally lose strength over land since their source of energy (warm sea water) is gone. Before landfall Wednesday, meteorologists weren't sure whether Michael would cross the threshold for a Category 5 – 157-mph winds. [Click here for full story.](#)

With 11 people killed so far, in the most powerful storm to hit the Florida Panhandle in recorded history, officials warned the number is [likely to rise](#) as search crews struggle to gain access to ravaged areas and sift through the piles of debris.

[Tyndall Air Force Base](#) sustained extensive damage from the wrath of the

storm. Tyndall said in a release Wednesday evening that the “catastrophic” storm delivered a direct hit to the base, bringing down trees and power lines, ripping roofs off buildings and causing significant structural damage. Tyndall is near Panama City, Florida, which bore the brunt of the storm.

Missing Journalist Sparks International Outrage

The U.S. has intercepts of Saudi officials discussing a plan to lure journalist Jamal Khashoggi back to Saudi Arabia and detain him, according to a U.S. official familiar with the intelligence.

Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi journalist and critic of the regime, [has been missing](#) for more than a week after going to the Saudi consulate general in Istanbul to obtain wedding papers. Turkish officials believe he was killed at the consulate, an allegation denied by Saudi Arabia.

A leading [Republican senator](#) said Thursday that he believes Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered and that “there is no question the Saudis did this.” Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker told CNN that the “intel points directly” to Saudi Arabia and said the Saudis need to “produce” the 59-year-old father of four to dispel concerns.

Quick Hits

The U.S. Army has selected a new round to replace those equipping its M4A1 carbine and M249 Squad Automatic Weapons. The Army selected five companies to produce prototype weapons in the new 6.8-millimeter round. Click [here](#) for full story.

The Pentagon announced Thursday that it would [temporarily ground](#) its entire

fleet of F-35s. This comes as a result of the F-35 crash that occurred several days ago and is suspected to be a fuel tube issue within the engine. [Read more here.](#)

Al-Tanf base in Syria has proven to be a massive thorn in Putin's side. In fact, the al-Tanf garrison has long drawn the ire of Moscow, Tehran, and Damascus — but all they've been able to do is complain about it. Read why [here.](#)

[Stocks fell sharply](#) in volatile trading on Thursday as investors dumped riskier assets in favor of traditional safe havens like bonds as the Dow tumbles over 500 points, bringing 2-day losses to more than 1,300 points. [Wall Street](#) has a reassuring message for investors who worry that this is more than a short-term blip and that the stock market will keep going down and plunder their wealth: "Pullbacks are normal," says John Lynch, chief investment strategist at LPL Financial.

The strategy for the U.S. forces in the Pacific has changed dramatically of late. Before, they focused their training primarily on disaster relief and rescue operations, however, since President Donald Trump has come to office, the administration has issued a new National Security Strategy focused on the persistent potential for military conflict with China and North Korea. The Army has shifted gears accordingly. Click [here](#) for full story.

Look Ahead

Monday, October 15th

8:45am: [The Defense Strategies Institute symposium, Day 1](#)

Mary M. Gates Learning Center, 701 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Va.

10:00am: [CSIS discussion on the South China Sea disputes](#)

1616 Rhode Island Ave NW

Tuesday, October 16th

8:45am: The Defense Strategies Institute symposium, Day 2
Mary M. Gates Learning Center, 701 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Va.

9:30am: [Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on two nominations](#)

G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Wednesday, October 17th

5:30pm: [CSIS discussion on free speech and national security](#)

1616 Rhode Island Ave NW

Friday, October 19th

8:30am: [Military Reporters & Editors Association conference](#)

Navy League of the United States Headquarters, 2300 Wilson Blvd #200,
Arlington, VA 22201

Have a great weekend!